# THE MINUTES OF THE HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Wednesday, May 9, 2007 9:00 a.m. Room 521 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Judiciary was called to order by **Representative Paul Condino**, Chair.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Representatives Condino, Coulouris, Bieda, Corriveau, Meadows, Meisner, Scott, Virgil Smith, Warren, Schuitmaker, David Law, Elsenheimer, Stakoe, Rick Jones and Rocca.

#### MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: None.

Representative Schuitmaker moved to adopt the minutes of the April 18, 2007, meeting. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

### Chairman Condino laid HB 4259 before the committee:

HB 4259 Condino Children; adoption; second parent adoption; provide for.

# **TESTIMONY**

Chairman Condino, sponsor of HB 4259, explained his bill to the committee.

**Jane Bassett**, Attorney and Vice-President of the Coalition for Adoption Rights Equality, Inc. (CARE), testified and submitted written testimony in support of the bill.

**Joan Bennett**, representing CARE, testified in support of the bill.

**Monica Linkner**, Attorney, representing the Family Law Section of the Michigan State Bar, testified and submitted written testimony in support of the bill.

**Judy Karandjeff**, representing the Michigan Women's Commission, testified and submitted written testimony in support of the bill.

**Katherine Rosenblum**, a child psychologist, testified and submitted written testimony in support of the bill.

**Tim Schmig**, representing the Michigan Association of Christian Schools, testified in opposition to the bill.

**Dr. Dean Bryan**, representing the Juniata Baptist Church, testified in opposition to the bill.

**Rev. Robert Magee**, representing the Heritage Baptist Church of DeWitt, testified in opposition to the bill.

**Effrem Grettenberger**, representing himself, testified in support of the bill.

**Dr. Kathleen Blumer**, representing herself, testified and submitted written testimony in support of the bill.

Due to time constraints the following people were unable to speak:

**Maxine Thome, Ph.D, LMSW**, representing the National Association of Social Workers (NASW – Michigan) supports the bill and submitted written testimony.

**Dennis Patrick**, representing himself, supports the bill.

Peggy Lee Wolfe, representing herself, supports the bill.

The following people submitted a card and did not wish to speak:

Mary Boudreau, representing herself, supports the bill and submitted written testimony.

Beverly Davidson, representing CARE, supports the bill.

Cynthia Paul, representing herself, supports the bill.

Cheryl Bollinger, Co-President, representing Michigan Pride At Work, AFL-CIO, supports the bill.

Wendell Simmons, representing the Michigan Psychiatric Society, supports the bill.

Margo Lowenstein, representing herself, supports the bill.

**Shelli Weisberg**, representing the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Michigan, supports the bill

**Ron Hicks**, representing the Michigan Department of Human Services, indicated neutrality on the bill.

**Dan Jarvis**, representing the Michigan Family Forum, opposes the bill and submitted written testimony.

**Penny Gardner**, representing CARE, supports the bill.

Robin Reed, Vice-President of the Lansing Association of Human Rights (LAHR) supports the bill.

**Dessa Cosma**, representing herself, supports the bill.

Sarah Scranton, representing the Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan, supports the bill.

**Joy Whitten**, representing herself, supports the bill.

Rebecca Malotke-Meslin, representing the Michigan NOW-Young Feminists, supports the bill.

**Doug Borruso**, representing the Michigan Osteopathic Association, supports the bill.

Marie Wolfe, representing herself, supports the bill.

Alicia Perez-Banuet, representing Michigan NOW, supports the bill and submitted written testimony.

The following people submitted written testimony and did not speak:

**Jed Magen** and **Kathleen Gross**, representing the Michigan Psychiatric Society, supports the bill.

**Fern Ettinger** and **Florence Herrmann**, representing the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) supports the bill.

**Mark A. Giesler, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Saginaw Valley State University, Michigan foster parent and **John Palladino, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Special Education, Eastern Michigan University, Michigan foster parent, submitted written testimony in support of the bill.

**Judge Eugene Arthur Moore**, representing the Sixth Judicial Circuit, Family Division, Probate Court for the County of Oakland, submitted written testimony in support of the bill.

**Frank Vandervort**, a Clinical Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School, submitted written testimony in support of the bill.

Coalition for Adoption Rights Equality, Inc. submitted written testimony in support of the bill.

Representative Meadows moved to adopt the substitute (H-2) to HB 4259.

The motion prevailed by a vote of 11-0-4.

## **FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:**

Yeas: Representatives Condino, Coulouris, Bieda, Corriveau, Meadows, Meisner, Scott, Virgil

Smith, Warren, Schuitmaker and David Law,

Nays: None,

Pass: Representatives Elsenheimer, Stakoe, Rick Jones and Rocca.

Representative Virgil Smith moved to report HB 4259 with recommendation, as substitute (H-2).

The motion prevailed by a vote of **8-5-2**.

## **FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:**

Yeas: Representatives Condino, Coulouris, Bieda, Meadows, Meisner, Scott, Virgil Smith and Warren,

Nays: Representatives Schuitmaker, Elsenheimer, Stakoe, Rick Jones and Rocca,

Pass: Representatives Corriveau and David Law.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

Representative Paul Condino, Chair House Standing Committee on Judiciary Malika Abdur-Rashid Committee Clerk 517-373-7256 1 Hour and 37 Minutes